

Claim Listing:

1. (currently amended) A method for matching components of an apparatus for protecting a patient's limb from tourniquet-related injury, comprising the steps of:

selecting a tourniquet cuff component having a length sufficient for encircling a limb at a location having a limb circumference of not less than a predetermined minimum limb circumference and not more than a predetermined maximum limb circumference;

providing a limb protection sleeve component that is configured to have a tubular shape and a tubular circumference predetermined to be less than the predetermined minimum limb circumference wherein the sleeve is formed to allow elastic stretching of the tubular shape sufficient to increase the tubular circumference to be substantially equivalent to the limb circumference when the sleeve is applied to the limb between the cuff and limb, thereby applying a pressure to the limb that is greater than a predetermined minimum pressure and less than a predetermined maximum pressure of 25 mmHg; and

matching the selected tourniquet cuff component and limb protection sleeve component by marking the cuff and sleeve to indicate that those two components match one another

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the matching step comprises applying a selected color on the cuff and the same selected color on the sleeve.

3. – 4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The method described in claim 1 including the step of providing a tourniquet instrument for inflating the tourniquet cuff at a pressure sufficient to stop blood flow in the encircled limb.

6. (currently amended) Apparatus for protecting a patient's limb from tourniquet-related injury, comprising:

a tourniquet cuff having a length sufficient for encircling a limb having a limb circumference within a range of not less than a predetermined minimum and not more than a predetermined maximum, and wherein the cuff has a first indicium thereon that is indicative of that range;

a stretchable limb protection sleeve having a tubular shape and an unstretched circumference that is less than the predetermined minimum, wherein the sleeve is formed to apply a pressure to the limb that is greater than a predetermined minimum pressure and less than a predetermined maximum pressure;

wherein the cuff has a predetermined width and forms a generally cylindrical shape when encircling the limb, and whereby the sleeve is sized to be substantially wider than the cuff thereby to enable part of the sleeve to underlie the cuff around the limb while another part of the sleeve is folded over the cuff when the cuff encircles the limb and

matching means perceptible to a user for matching the sleeve to the first indicium of the cuff the matching means including a second indicium on the sleeve that corresponds to the first indicium on the cuff.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) Apparatus for protecting a patient's limb from tourniquet-related injury, comprising:

a tourniquet cuff having a length sufficient for encircling a limb having a limb circumference within a range of not less than a predetermined minimum and not more than a predetermined maximum, and wherein the cuff has a first indicium thereon that is indicative of that range;

a stretchable limb protection sleeve having a tubular shape and an unstretched circumference that is less than the predetermined minimum, wherein the sleeve is formed to apply a pressure to the limb that is greater than a predetermined minimum pressure and less than a predetermined maximum pressure;

The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the sleeve is comprised of two layers, with one layer folded over another layer at a fold edge and so that the edges of the layers away from the fold edge are sewn together at a sewn edge of the sleeve; and

matching means perceptible to a user for matching the sleeve to the first indicium of the cuff the matching means including a second indicium on the sleeve that corresponds to the first indicium on the cuff.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the second indicium is incorporated into the sewn edge of the sleeve.

10. (canceled)

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising an instrument attached to the cuff for pressurizing the cuff.

12. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the first indicium and the second indicium are the same color.

13. – 18 (canceled)

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the limb protection sleeve includes the step of establishing the predetermined maximum pressure applied by the sleeve to the limb to be less than a pressure for partially obstructing venous blood flow in the limb.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~claim 19~~ wherein the step of establishing the predetermined maximum pressure applied by the sleeve to the limb includes measuring the pressure applied by the sleeve to the limb.

22. (canceled)